TECHNIQUES FOR IMPLEMENTING PLUGGABLE VIRTUAL MACHINES

ABSTRACT

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Techniques for developing and exchanging virtual machine implementations and/or support library implementations are described. In one embodiment, the virtual machine design specifies a set of functions for executing all or substantially all support library operations that are dependent on the implementation of the virtual machine. When

10 a developer desires to substitute one virtual machine implementation for another, the developer is able to basically "plug-in" the second virtual machine implementation with minimal impact on the support libraries since both virtual machine implementations provide implementations for the set of specified functions that are dependent on the implementation of the respective virtual machine. Conversely, different support libraries

15 may be utilized in conjunction with a particular virtual machine implementation.